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REPORT

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1. The initial phase of any mining project in the USSR was geological exploration, which was the responsibility of the State Geological Exploration Administration (Gosudarstvennoye Geologicheskoye Razvedochnoye Upravleniye -- GosGeologoRazvedka). This Administration had main offices in Moscow and field agencies in all republics and autonomous oblasts, referred to as Republic Geological Exploration Administrations (Respublikanskoye Geologicheskoye Razvedochnoye Upravleniye). In addition, geological exploration teams were attached permanently to every mining enterprise. These local geological teams conducted geological explorations simultaneously with exploitation.
2. It is very difficult to say how much time it may have taken for the geological exploration of an area for various minerals. However, since this was always done in several stages, and the process normally required a large number of drillings, mathematical calculations, and analyses of samples, the average time required for this exploration, in my opinion, would have been approximately a year.
3. The time required by the various state mining agencies in order to decide whether or not minerals which had been discovered should be exploited, and if so, what priority should be given to each project, ran from one-half year to two years. 25X1

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[redacted]

4. Once exploitation had been decided upon and the necessary financial means obtained to start the exploitation, technical personnel were appointed to carry out the project; the matter was then forwarded to the responsible republic or oblast mining inspectorate [redacted]. [redacted] there were no oblast mining inspectorates in Georgian SSR), which was the proper agency to supervise the mine's construction and exploitation. The inspectorate would request the above-mentioned technical personnel to submit a detailed technical project for the construction of the mine and a description of the exploitation which was planned. This material would then be studied by the mining inspectorate and, if approved, authorization for mine construction would be given. The time period required for this process normally ran to several months.

5. [redacted] it took from the initial period of the construction of a mine until the start of its exploitation. Normally, for a coal mine, one to three years was required for this purpose.

6. Under normal conditions [redacted] a period of three to six years elapsed between the start of geological exploration of a mineral deposit and the beginning of its exploitation. By normal conditions [redacted] under which the mineral in question was not in high demand and no pressure for its exploitation was being brought to bear by the state authorities. If the latter were the case, the time required for preparatory work might have been considerably shortened

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